

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Commission**

ITEM

6

DECISION

**TOPIC Ambient Streams and Lakes Monitoring and Laboratory Support
Contract – University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory**

The Department requests Commission approval of a contract in the amount of \$983,813 with the University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory (UHL) for monitoring and analytical services for stream and lake ambient water quality monitoring

This contract encompasses the majority of surface water monitoring conducted as part of the state-wide water monitoring program and is the primary basis for assessing the state's stream water quality. The purpose of the monitoring program is to define the condition of Iowa's water resources, characterize existing and emerging issues by geographic extent and magnitude, measure changes or trends in Iowa's water quality, and provide information to citizens and decision-makers. To meet these goals, the Department utilizes UHL for field sampling and analytical services. As part of this contract, UHL collects water samples at 80 stream sites throughout the state on a monthly basis and analyzes the water for a variety of parameters including nutrients, bacteria, and water chemistry. Twenty-three of these sites are located upstream and downstream of 10 large cities to measure the influence of urban areas on surface water quality. The contract also provides field and analytical support for monitoring on 127 of Iowa's significantly and publicly owned lakes. The lakes are monitored three times during the field season for basic water chemistry, nutrients, plankton composition, and clarity. The lake data provides valuable information to the Department's Lake Restoration Program. In addition, the contract also provides analytical support for samples collected by the Department on priority lakes for assessment, restoration, or follow-up monitoring.

The contract contains provisions for special water quality studies that allow the Department to follow-up or verify abnormal results or pursue questions in greater depth or to develop monitoring partnerships with local watershed groups to collect data on watersheds of interest. Lastly, the contract provides analytical support for the contaminated sites section and underground storage tank section. This support is for samples submitted by the Department for compliance checks.

Funding for this contract comes from the Environment First Infrastructure Funds – Water Quality Monitoring Funds, LUST Trust Fund, RSIP Grants, State Hazardous Waste Remedial Funds, and Land Recycling Program fees, and State Lake Restoration Funds.

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